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Curios and Relics

China, Kitchenware, & Glassware

China

Connected with Lincolns

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04281

D — cup and saucer

Basic S, 2

1860

LINCOLN'S CUP AND SAUCER

81. LINCOLN (ABRAHAM). Cup and saucer once owned by President Abraham Lincoln. Height of cup, 4¾ inches; diameter of saucer, 6¾ inches. (The cup has been repaired.)

50.

ANOTHER INTERESTING MEMENTO OF OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENT. Accompanying these articles is an affidavit signed by the owner, and which reads,—"*The cup and saucer was owned by Abraham Lincoln when he lived in Springfield, Illinois, at the time he was elected President of the United States in 1860. My great-uncle William Windoes was a close friend of Mr. Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., during the time he ran for office. Mr. Lincoln decided to dispose of the household goods he did not need or would not take with him to the White House. Another great-uncle, Elias R. Bowen, of Chicago, Illinois, in whose home my mother and I in after years lived, was notified by Mr. Windoes of this sale, which they both attended and Mr. Bowen bought the cup and saucer as well as other things, and they have been in the family ever since. The cup and saucer were purchased for the sentiment that Abraham Lincoln's lips touched it daily, and ever since I was a little girl in my Uncle Bowen's home it was my privilege and joy to watch relatives and friends reverently touch their lips to the cup in memory of our beloved martyred President, Abraham Lincoln. These articles came into my possession upon the death of my mother who came into possession of them through her uncle Elias R. Bowen who purchased them at the auction sale of the contents of President Lincoln's home in Springfield before he left to take up the duties of President of the United States.*"

PITCHER believed Gift from Lincoln

BELIEVE PITCHER WAS GIVEN BY A. LINCOLN

Lincoln Courier

A large pitcher, said to have been presented by Abraham Lincoln to his gardener in 1861, is on exhibition in the Courier window.

According to the story handed down through several generations, Abraham Lincoln presented the pitcher to George F. Reinhardt who was his gardener at that time. The latter presented it to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Danner, wife of C. H. Danner, who in turn gave it, to her son, George H. Danner, the present owner.

PLATE Lincoln Ate From
Curios

HAS OLD PLATE FROM WHICH LINCOLN DINED

Mrs. W. H. Waltrip, who lives just west of the corporate limits of Mattoon in Western avenue, has a plate from which Abraham Lincoln ate at different times when he was a guest of her grandfather, the late William G. Waddill, at the latter's tavern, southwest of Mattoon near the Little Wabash church.

Mrs. Waltrip obtained possession of the plate through her mother, the late Mrs. Hannah Parmelia Smith, who received it from her mother, Mrs. Waddill. It is an iron stone china plate, with blue design. It bears the label, "John Alcock, Celeste, Cobridge."

Mrs. Waltrip has a newspaper clipping in which Mrs. Smith, her mother, is quoted as saying, "I saw Mr. Lincoln a great many times. My father, William G. Waddill, kept a stage house on the state road near the Little Wabash church, and I cooked for Lincoln many times while there. He always seemed in a deep study and never spoke very much. My father's name was recorded in Washington by President Lincoln. Lincoln was always dressed in black, a broadcloth frock coat, and we had no idea of his ever being president. There were no automobiles and not even trains in those days, but we had some beautiful coaches to ride in, and Lincoln often rode by in them. I have some dishes now from the old stage house, a plate from which Lincoln ate at different times."

On her eighty-second birthday, Mrs. Smith, who then resided just south of the Linder school house, two and a quarter miles west of Mattoon, received 108 postal cards in a shower arranged by her friends. As the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waddill, she helped cook the meals for the guests of the Waddill tavern.

Mrs. Waltrip says that she did not realize until recently the historic value of the Lincoln plate. She is now cherishing it as a priceless heirloom.

MATTOON ILL JOUR GAZETTE
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1930.

D. H. McCartney was a morning caller. He has in his home on North Rutledge street a clock made famous because it was at one time used by Abraham Lincoln, and donated to the collection a photograph of the historic treasure.

PLATE Used by Lincoln

A LINCOLN RELIC.

Sarna 2d 6-27-1930

Mattoon, Ill., June 25.—Mrs. W. E. Waltrip, who lives just west of the corporate limits of Mattoon in Western avenue, has a plate from which Abraham Lincoln ate at different times when he was a guest of her grandfather, the late William G. Waddill, at the latter's tavern, southwest of Mattoon near theLittle Wabash church.

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HANNA E. SPECTOR
2243 BEN LOMOND DRIVE, LOS ANGELES 27, CALIFORNIA

December 4, 1945

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
MAIL ROOM
Referred to
REC'D DEC - 8 1945
Answered
LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, 1, Indiana

Gent.:

Enclosed is a snapshot of the Lincoln China I own.

The enclosed newspaper clipping furnishes you with the information regarding it.

I am asking $375.00 for the set.

Trusting to hear from you,

I am,

Yours very truly

Hanna E. Spector

7 platters of various sizes
1 covered dish

Look as if they were in

Beard, Rossville, Pampa Field; and Kenneth W. Keplar, Winamac rural route 2. Pampa Field.

Lincoln China Seen In Museum Display

An interesting display of china, that was used by President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln at their home in Springfield, Ill., is being exhibited by its owner, Miss Hanna Spector, at the Tippecanoe county museum. The china pieces, consisting of a turkey platter, two smaller platters and a soup tureen in blue and white Staffordshire ware, was loaned to the museum as a special exhibit in observance of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12.

The china was given to the Lincolns' colored cook, Mariah Vance, when they moved to the White House, and was cherished by her for over 40 years. Since that time it has been in the hands of several persons, and recently was purchased by Miss Spector.

MONUMENTS
Main St. Levee or Call 5828.—Ad

December 11, 1945

Miss Hanna Spector
2243 Ben Lomond Drive
Los Angeles, 27, California

Dear Madam:

Thanks very much for calling to our attention the interesting Lincoln china which is in your possession, but I fear we will not be able to purchase it as our facilities for displaying it here would not warrant so much investment for something that would have to temporarily be packed away. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling it to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Lincoln Autography

PRESIDENT
HAL FREOFF

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
HON. ARTHUR J. LACY

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
PAUL H. OTIS

SECRETARY
RALPH DODGE JOHNSON

TREASURER
CHARLES A. KANTER

GENEALOGIST
CARL O. MOODY

HISTORIAN
CAPT. GEORGE R. RAUB, JR.

CHAPLAIN
REV. JOSEPH A. VANCE

DETROIT CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
26597 ROSS DRIVE
DETROIT 23, MICHIGAN

RANDOLPH 3389

KEnwood 1-6763

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JAMES B. BOGNER
HENRY P. STACY
BARRY T. WHIPPLE
HAROLD E. PHELPS

March 8, 1948.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren :

I have in my possession a Wedgewood dinner service for eight(sepia) and an amber colored glass whiskey flask which belonged to Abraham Lincoln.

The above were given to my great-grandmother, Marilla Lincoln , after President Lincoln's death and have been handed down through the family to myself.

I am now offering same for private sale. Would be very happy to hear from you, if interested, or possibly you could turn over this information to one of your colleagues who might be in the market.

Very truly yours,

Hal Freoff.

Hal Freoff.

March 9, 1948

Mr. Hal Freoff
26597 Ross Drive
Detroit, 23, Michigan

Dear Sir:

We regret to advise you that Dr. Warren is at present out of the office on a speaking itinerary. Upon his return I will bring your letter to his attention.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
Secretary to Dr. Warren

mm

March 22, 1948

Mr. Hal Freoff
26597 Ross Drive
Detroit, 23, Michigan

My dear Mr. Freoff:

We have paid very little attention to china and glass ware as we have no facilities now for exhibiting it.

However, we are keeping your letter on file and in case we should develop an exhibit on this type of Lincolniana we will get in touch with you.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB

Director

July 15, 1948

Miss Lelian I. Harris
2440 Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, 14, Ill.

My dear Madam:

Thanks very much for offering us the piece of china supposed to have been used in the Lincoln home in Springfield. I regret exceedingly we would not care to acquire it but suggest that you write to the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield, Illinois and they might be interested in its acquisition.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A. Warren

7-13-8 6

LILIAN I. HARRIS
2440 LAKEVIEW AVENUE
CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

Lincoln Nat. Life Foun.
Fort Wayne (1)
Indiana

Enclosed is a photograph of a regelable dish of Lincoln's dinner set - once in Springfield. I have traced this & find my statement is true

The dark border is a rich red. - The flowers are various colors. - pansies - daisies & forget - me - nots - The "L" is on both sides of dish

It is an old English China — no marks to indicate make — but there are brown marks on the bottom — showing the drying process.

I feel I should have fifty 50.00 for the dish. I am not a dealer but have had this dish in my home, for many years.

Cordially Yours,

Lefran I Harris

LINCOLN NATIONAL
LIFE DEPARTMENT
RECD SEP 21 W

Auburn Ind
Sep 4 1949

Lincoln Life Ins. Co.

Dear Sirs:—

In reply to your letter rec'd a few days ago. I am holding the Lincoln plate at $15.00. If you are interested let me know

Res.
Mrs. Stackhouse

6025 N. E. 10th Ave.
Portland 11, Oregon
April 16, 1954

Dr. Louis A. Warren
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Doctor Warren:

Received your nice letter of information and many thanks.

I have just received some pictures made of me holding the Abraham Lincoln fruit dish in my left hand and standing in front of the Abraham Lincoln picture touched by me. I am sending you this picture in response to your kindness and interest in this great American president.

Yours very truly,

E. L. Benedict by H.S.

E. L. Benedict

April 28, 1954

Mr. E. L. Benedict
6025 N.E. 10th Avenue
Portland 11, Oregon

My dear Mr. Benedict:

Will you please accept my thanks for the very fine picture of yourself holding the fruit dish which you were kind enough to show me upon my visit to Portland.

Very truly yours,

LAW/JLA

Director

wch
2/6/70

717 Delles Road
Suite 3, South
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
February 4, 1970

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Attn: Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Recently we were given a plate which is believed to have been in the household belongings of the Abraham Lincoln family at one time. The enclosed letter contains all the information we have at the present time.

However, I am in the process of doing research on the plate. I would very much appreciate receiving any Lincoln Lores or articles you have contain datum on Lincoln china - both used in and out of The White House.

Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,

Max E. Shively

Max E. Shively

MES:pr

Enclosure

Wheaton, Illinois 60187
February 4, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hammerschmidt
[illegible] pt
[illegible] 3

Re: Lincoln plate

Dear Ruth and Bill:

We wish to express our gratitude for your recent gift to us --- the plate which is believed to have been, at one time, in the household belongings of the Abraham Lincoln family. We are most pleased to have this priceless china plate in our Lincolniana collection.

The Staffordshire plate is 8 3/4 inches in diameter. The napkin-shaped plate is centered with hand-painted pears on a white background. It has an inner border of gold design next to a maroon border which has raised work in white. The corners of the plate feature yellow tea roses. A gold border surrounds the outer rim of the plate. The plate has been broken and was repaired with 3 staples.

Attached to the back side of the plate is a strip of paper measuring approximately 3½ inches long and 1½ inches wide. This handwritten inscription is on it: "Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Ill., 1859."

We were informed of the following history when we received the plate. Ethel Willems, a Chicago antique dealer, acquired the plate from a dealer friend who resided in the east. This dealer received the plate from a lady who was a distant relative of Mrs. Lincoln's housekeeper. The housekeeper asked for the plate when it was broken in moving. The housekeeper had the plate mended. Mrs. Mildred Swanson, the owner of the former

Trade-Well Antiques business in Elmhurst, Illinois, obtained the plate from Ethel Willems. When closing her antique shop, Mrs. Swanson, who had this plate in her possession about 25 years, gave it to Mrs. Ruth Hammerschmidt during the winter of 1968. Mrs. Hammerschmidt gave us the plate on Thursday, January 29, 1970.

It is our intention that should it ever be decided that our Lincolniana collection would no longer be a family possession, it will be bequeathed to an institution as a permanent addition to the institution's archives.

At any time, should our collection be disbanded, the plate will be offered as a gift to the Lincoln National Life Foundation for the Lincoln Museum. This organization is sponsored by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company with headquarters in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Your thoughtfulness, in presenting us with the plate which is believed to have been part of the household belonging of the Abraham Lincoln family, will be cherished and never forgotten.

Thank you very much.

Gratefully,

Max E. Shively

Max E. Shively

Phyllis R. Shively

Phyllis R. Shively

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of February, 1970.

Eileen M. Porter

Notary Public

ON 257 Gary - Wheaton, Ill.

Address

My commission expires March 4 1972.

MES:pr

cc: Lincoln National Life Foundation

Dr Jane Burgess Barrett

[illegible]

[illegible]